

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter - June 2007

Gear night at Bivouac

Tuesday 5 June (6pm -8pm)

An evening at Mountain Equipment/Bivouac
400 Ferguson Street, PN

Nibbles and drinks provided.

Bivouac are hosting a Gear Night for local tramping clubs to promote their taking over of Mountain Equipment. All items not on sale in-store will have 20% discount (10% for EPERB, kayaks and some other items). Sale items will have an additional 5% off. This offer also applies for Wednesday 6 June in case you can't make it, or have second thoughts about any item.

Any queries, contact Warren 356-1998 or Penny Abercrombie, 06-358-7007 (after 5.30pm).

Club Nights

Club nights are held at 7:45pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street. All welcome! Please sign the visitor's book at the door.

14 June Club night

**Working for conservation: QE2 Trust
Tony Gates**

Tony Gates will talk about the QE2 conservation programme in the local region.

21 June Committee meeting

Anja's place; 45 Savage Cres

28 June Club night

Mt Cook Grand Travers

Andrew Lynch

A grand tour of Cook is one of the classic traverses of a New Zealand mountain. Expect to see some excellent pictures at this evening!

Coming up in July:

Club night Photo competition

Now is the time to start searching out those wonderful previous summer trip prints, slides and digital images and consider them as entries for the Club night photo competition in July. This is an advance notice - further details will be in the next newsletter.

Upcoming Trips

Trip Grading

terrain. A reasonably proficient trumper should be expected to do the trips in the following times:

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs

Fit (F): about 8 hrs

Fitness Essential (FE): over 8 hrs

Other grades: Technical skills required (T) & Instructional (I)

Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Countdown car park. A charge for transport will be collected on the day. Leaders will give an estimate in advance.

Trip leaders

Please advise a trip coordinator, as soon as possible, if you will be unable to run your trip as scheduled. This is so that alternatives can be arranged, put in the newsletter, or passed on at club night.

Overdue Trips

Note to partners, parents or friends of members:

If a club trip is late returning, please do not worry unduly as there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone one of the Overdue Trip Contacts or Trip Coordinators:

Mick Leyland	358-3183	Terry Crippen	356-3588
Janet Wilson	329-4722	Warren Wheeler	356-1998

Sat 2 June - Mon 4 June

Queen Charlotte Track

Easy/Medium

John Feeney

354-2940

Spend a leisurely 4 days on this popular and spectacular walk. The plan is to take the easy option and have packs transported by launch between huts. The group leaves PN in time to catch the first ferry on Friday 1st June and returns on the 1.30pm ferry on Monday 4th June. Places were filling fast so contact John in case there are any spaces left on this top trip in the top of the South Island!

Mon 4 June

Sledge Track

Easy/Medium

Duncan Hedderley

354-6905

This trip passes through a neat bit of bush, practically in Palmy's back yard. Gather at 8.30am at Countdown carpark, and we'll tailor plans depending on how keen people are and what the weather is doing.

Included with this newsletter

Six Monthly Events Calendar for July to December 2007

Terry Crippen

Thank you from Janet and me, to all club members who have volunteered to lead trips. Lots of excellent trips of various grades for everybody; winter, spring and summer. Instruction, and a good selection of club nights as well. Penny Abercrombie is our new Club night organizer. Support these club trips and evenings, and bring friends along.

Note: Recently, a Search and Rescue (SAR) operation involved the helicopter evacuation of a PNTMC trip participant, and the late finishing of the trip. This overdue trip and SAR operation showed not only that the Club's procedures for running trips do work but how important they are. It is timely therefore to remind all of us of these procedures (outlined below, and included with this newsletter).

Guide for Trip Leaders

This explains how club trips are organized. New leaders; take time to go through the guide (full version on one side, tick box on the other). Seasoned leaders; use it as a timely reminder of your responsibilities. Trip participants; keep for reference. A couple of reminders:

1. Leaders please consult a trip coordinator (Terry, Janet or Warren) and then inform Anne (newsletter editor), if you can't lead the scheduled Club trip, or want to change the date or destination. This is for safety and advertising reasons.
2. All leaders remember to leave full details of the trip as per guidelines in case a trip is overdue, and don't forget to tell new trip participants how the system works if a trip is overdue. The Overdue Trip Contacts or Trip Coordinators can assure worried family or friends that there is probably no need to be concerned if a trip is overdue, but if necessary they would make initial steps in contacting the police in case a search and rescue operation is needed.

Intentions/Help Form

NZMSC have put out a new *Intentions* form to replace the *Help* ones. Leaders; use either as is or as a guide to what is needed to be recorded and left with a Club Overdue Contact or your "responsible contact at home".

Club Trip Feedback Form

Trip participants (including leaders) use this to give the committee information regarding the trip you went on, good or bad. If a significant incident or an accident occurs a full report is needed.

Note: More copies of the above material are available at club night, or ask a committee member.

Notices

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Anne at dahlia44@xtra.co.nz or to 44 Dahlia St, Palmerston North.

Snowcraft Instruction Programme 2007

The Club's comprehensive snowcraft programme has two aims: Firstly, to equip you with the necessary skills for safe tramping in snow, be it on winter trips, or summer trips above the snowline. Secondly, to pass on the fundamental skills for snow climbing and mountaineering.

The programme consists of three weekends (Friday night departure to Ruapehu or Egmont) and a Tuesday session prior to each weekend. A progressive approach is used, with Snowcraft 1 assuming little or no previous snow experience and Snowcraft 2 and 3 building on the previous levels. Most participants enrol in the complete programme, while others just enrol for one or two of the weekends depending on their previous experience or ambitions. Numbers are limited, so enrol now to confirm a place.



Dates are as follows:

Deadline for applications is Club night 12 July

Snowcraft 1 21-22 July (evening Tues 17 July)

Snowcraft 2 4 -5 August (evening Tues 31 July)

Snowcraft 3 18-19 August (evening Tues 14 August)

	PNTMC Members	Non-Members
Snowcraft 1	\$130	\$135
Snowcraft 2	\$145	\$150
Snowcraft 3	\$135	\$140
One-off payment for all 3 courses	\$395	\$410

Fees cover weeknight venues, transport, weekend accommodation, most food, group gear hire, and instruction. Individual gear hire, if needed, is an additional cost for non PNTMC members.

For further information & registration form, contact Terry Crippen 356-3588, Bruce van Brunt 328-4761, pick up one at Club night, or visit the Club web site.

Obituary: Heather Margaret Crabb

Heather Margaret Crabb
by Sue Pither

Died 14 April 2007 after a short illness.
PNTMC member for 13 years from 1970 to 1984.

It is with sadness that Heather's passing is acknowledged at the age of 80 plus years.

Heather served many rolls in the club during its early years. This started when she took over from Bill Olsen as vice president in 1970.

Later came the following:

Club Secretary 1972
Newsletter Editor 1973-1979
SAR contact for club 1977 (especially during the Balfour Search)
Typist 1976-1979

You name it, she'd give a hand if she could. Hence she was to become known as the club "roustabout."

She also had a great sense of humour!

On the first club Christmas trip, she and two of her cohorts, the current patron and his wife, built a giant yeti outside the tents in the dead of the night (this was a time when people were searching for yetis in Nepal to see if they were real!) The first time we strung the thing up, Heather decided it wasn't good enough -- so down it came. It had to be dressed up for the auspicious occasion, so on went the parka, overtrousers, mittens and a hat.

The second time, as we tried to get the thing up using a rope, and a branch as a pulley, the patron somehow got his foot stuck in a large billy which some inconsiderate cook had left close to the campfire right way up!! In those days one NEVER left ones billies the right way up in case the socks hanging over the fire dripped into them and the party ended up with sock stew! However amid much clanging and shushing the job was finally done and the culprits slunk off to their pits and denied all knowledge in the morning, when it was found. It was about 4 metres high with spindly legs! Suitably dressed of course!

This world is surely a poorer place for Heather's passing.

I close with words from A R D Fairburn's poem, "Elements"

".....we thrust our way through the bush.
Through the ferns in the deep shadow angled with sunbeams,
roamed by streams in the bush, by the scarred stones and the smooth stones water-worn, our shoulders wet with rain from the shaken leaves."

A new arrival



Introducing budding tramper Conan Bruce Strachan. Born on the 13th of May, 2007 (the due date and Mother's Day) at 21:48, and weighing 3.455kg

The kanji we chose for the name Conan are a combination of 'tiger' and 'south,' so his name means 'Southern Tiger.' Fortunately, he does seem to suit his name (has yellow and black stripes from head to tail). His middle name, Bruce, he acquired from his Dad, who changed his middle name from Bruce to Nishijo (Maho's maiden name) upon marriage.

A healthy baby who sleeps very well -- in the **daytime!** Oh well, tigers are nocturnal, are they not?

Mata ne,
Maho & Doug & Minami & Conan

Trip Reports

Mt Sefton
February 2007
Report and photos by Peter Wiles

Mt Sefton is one of the top 10 highest peaks. It is the mountain that dominates the vista from the Hermitage and the Sealy Range behind.

We arrived by various means at Porter Lodge in Fox Glacier. Although the weather on Thursday looked fine enough in Fox, 20 km south at Karangarua it was too cloudy and windy for the helicopter to fly us in.

We drove down to the Karangarua (start of the Copland track) on Friday morning for a 7am lift off. The first lift took off but returned 20 minutes later -- still too cloudy to land on the glacier. The pilot suggested that he might try later in the morning. We returned to Fox pondering our prospects. Barely enough time for another cup of tea, the phone rang,

“get yourselves back down here and we will have another go”!



It did not look much better, but the Hughes 500 took off with Bruce and Malcolm and 20 min later returned without them. Time for Terry, Nigel and Peter to fly.

It was soon clear why it was marginal flying – the landing spot, the Lucy Walker Pass at the top of the glacier at 2400m, was very close to the cloud line and the adjacent white out. After two sweeps over the landing site to assess the wind, we were down and a few seconds later the bird was off, leaving us to our devices, and civilization seemingly someplace far away and cut off.

We roped up, altered our clothing for the freezing conditions and headed into the mists. Terry stopped after a 100m to discover his crampon link bar had snapped. Was this going to be the first of a series of mishaps? With string, he tied it together as best as possible and we continued. After some directional uncertainty, and avoiding several crevasses, by about midday we arrived adjacent Welcome Pass at close to 2400 m, selected a flattish area in the snow and began digging a platform for the tents. We passed the afternoon getting our camp organized, melting snow and taking photos. It was evident that the cloud was gradually clearing to reveal the most spectacular



alpine vista – dominated by the west face of Sefton (3130m). After a magic sunset we went to bed. The temperature dropped well below freezing as the sun went down.

We were up at 4.30 am and away at 6 am into a cloudless calm morning. The long route up the and across the ice field went well despite a large number of crevasses and in some places only one viable snow bridge across them. The snow was hard and our crampons seldom left much impression. We gained the scrund and the west ridge of Sefton at about 2950 m. We were now on hard rather glassy snow and rather steeper ground, so we began belaying with perfect snowstake anchors– Peter and Terry on one rope and Bruce, Nigel and Malcolm on the other. This was a very time consuming process. Pitch after pitch with lunch somewhere in the process in a handy crevasse. Time flew by. We reached the summit at 6.30 pm! There was only time for a couple of photos and we knew that we had no time to waste to get down and off this mountain before darkness. The weather had deteriorated with a large amount of cloud to the south and a rising wind.

We managed to speed up the descent by the top belay essentially lowering the people below. The sun set about 9.30 pm and we were still at about 3000m. The withering heat of the sun was now replaced by the freezing wind, which rapidly refroze the slopes.

We continued belaying in the dark and the feeble light of our torches. Our route was a little uncertain until Nigel found that he had a crevasse below him that forced us to traverse along to where it finally ended.

It was 11 pm when we finished the belaying, there was no moon because of the extensive cloud and now we had to try to find our way through several kilometers of crevasses. Remarkably and thankfully, Terry’s crampon had not failed and no one had dropped any gear in the haste to get down! The wind had died out.

Terry led the way with a remarkable eye for the very slight traces left by the rope dragging on the snow from the previous morning. Five tired lads arrived back safely at camp just before 3 am! Forget dinner, we crashed into bed.

We got up around 8 am (tent became too hot) and began packing up in clearing weather departing at 1 pm for Welcome Pass and the Tekano Glacier.

We dropped down 400 m on the glacier in a partial whiteout, but pauses were sufficient to get views of the route and the avoidance of crevasses. Once off the glacier and in clear conditions we romped down the remaining 400 m of snow in a relaxed mood to a good campsite in the head of Scotts Creek.



Photo: Kaingarua River

It was beautifully fine again in the morning. The route below was initially down the edge of an old lateral moraine. At the scrub zone, we were forced into the creek bed until the first waterfall where we lowered our packs and abseiled.

After lunch the creek travel was rougher and before long we arrived at the lower waterfall. This took about 2 h for us to all get down without incident. We used a combination of pack lowering, fixed ropes and hanging onto the scrub to negotiate the ledge system and scrub that forms the only viable route.

Soon we were down out of the creek and on an old track of sorts in a dry creek bed and then finally on the main valley track at the bottom. We arrived at Welcome Flats hut around 7 pm. After dinner, off to the pools and then bed.

We walked out the following day in cloudless hot conditions reaching the road mid afternoon. Back up to Fox for a relaxed afternoon for some re-hydration (beers) and a meal in town.

We were Terry Crippen, Bruce van Brunt, Malcolm Parker, Peter Wiles and Nigel Scott.

Knights - Manawatu

Ruahine Crossing - West to East

14-15 April
Report by Murray Gifford
Photos by Warren Wheeler



Day One

Peter and Janet Darragh joined us to get us to the start of the track, and enjoy an afternoon in the bush with a short walk to the first stream crossing and then a visit to the new Heritage Lodge (P.S. all locked up waiting for a code compliance certificate). On route we stopped for coffee and lunch at the Kimbolton café, which was most relaxing, so a late start close to 1.00pm.

It was a good solid walk in the mist and light rain to the top of Toka at approx 1625m. As we neared the tops the wind freshened to blow us about and create wind chill, so time for parkas, mittens and overtrou. Reached the top in 2 hrs.



We carried on down, staggering from pole to pole in the mist. Managed to be temporarily off track, I ended up going back the way we had come until our down hill was back uphill and the brain thought "Hello hello, this does not compute", meanwhile Warren has found the track and wondered why I was not behind? Finally both headed south and along the open tops to the bush line thru a well cut track in leatherwood country. Steep down the western side, finally seeing the hut on the valley floor below. An easy river crossing with low flows to the hut, would not be good if river high. 4 hrs all up to Leon Kinvig Hut, on the true left of the Pohangina. Warren was quick to get soup on, the dark set in quickly and dinner followed, both in the sack by 8.30pm, pitch black, so slept well.



Murray outside Leon Kinvig

Day Two

A leisurely start to Sunday, porridge and packed ready to go by 8.30. Many reports of blue duck in the hut log so we checked the stream nearby, but to no avail. A good steady climb thru a well formed track towards peak 1152m on the main Ruahine range.

Branched off the Longview track to the east a quarter of an hour up the ridge, 1.25hrs from the hut. The cloud cleared to the east and views of the saddles and ridges ahead, farmland further on in the central

Hawkes Bay. A steep long descent (track a bit overgrown) well into the bush at approx 600m and at least three saddles.



The track to Makaretu hut went down and off to the north from the last saddle. We sidled around on the west face of the most eastward range for half an hour, studied the map and concluded it was time to head north to get into the Manawatu River head stream.



The source of the Manawatu

We had 15mins up to a small saddle, lots of rocky scree so easy travelling. The way down off track looked daunting, thick pepper tree scrub to start, in places we crawled to get thru. Travelled in the stream for some time to bush level, tough going slow. Stayed on the true left but valley dropped quickly with waterfalls. Change of plan headed to true right, straight back up to the ridge, easier travel, a steep drop along the ridge in relatively open bush, sidled again and Warren lead us out to the farm land after two hours, seemed so simple. Easy walk to the road end on Manawatu River road. Peter collected us at 4.00pm.

*Thanks to Peter for transport both ends.
We were Warren Wheeler, leader (It's just a dawdle)
and Murray Gifford (boy lost).*

Toka Trip

29 April 2007

Report by Warren Wheeler

Fine weather, gentle breeze
Just two, easy to please.
From Sixtus Roadend a short stroll
Over stoney paddocks and bulldozed track
Across Coal Creek and up the bank
Past the DoC sign Ruahine Forest Park.
Just follow the orange markers
You'll find your way
Beware the Loop Track or you will stray.
Up Knights Track after crossing the Creek
Steep makes the heart beat quick ticktick.
Majestic mixed forest, mainly beech
Roots for handholds an easy reach.
Out of the bush and into the sun
Tops travel is so much fun
Through snowgrass and slippery well-worn track
Beware of spikey grass attack.
Summit tarn and iron tripod
Veer left to head straight to Toka trig
Lying mostly scattered on the ground
Distant views all around.
Break for lunch, a photo or two
Try new Barbie phone, how do you do?
A shot rings out, by Toka Biv I'd say.
Two people coming our way
Hello Llew and Jenny too
Nice day for a stroll and pleasant view.
We'll go back the way you came
Complete the loop, that's the game.
South along the well-poled ridge
Then down not so steep Shorts Track
That'll bring us off the tops and back
To civilisation via Deerford Track.
That was a quick tour around
2 hours up, 1 and a half down.
Time to spend in Kimbolton town,
Best chocolate mud cake to be found.

*Thanks to leader Terry Crippen.
It didn't kill me so I must be stronger!*

Purity Hut (and beyond)

21 April 2007

Report by John Feeney

Seeing a Doc presentation at a recent club night which included views of the new Purity Hut in the Western Ruahines inspired me to suggest a trip to this area.

To my surprise five other men agreed to come with me. We set out from Palmy at the wee hour of 7am on one of those crisp autumn mornings. Warren ably led the way following a windy and spectacular route to guide us to our park access point at the end of Mangakukeke Road.

The track to Purity is well formed, steep across farmland, then settling into a more sedate grade through native bush and beech forest. Chris and Ian, both good talkers, follow along at the back of the group taking turns to lead the conversation. The scenery is stunning and it's easy to take this striking environment for granted. We reach Purity Hut about 11am. Despite a few "dodgy" comments about features of the building from some of the group, the new six bed hut doesn't disappoint! It is sited on clear tussock land with sensational views across the surrounding ranges. Our group is feeling fit and with the weather warming up we blindly agree to comply with a suggestion from Derrick to travel on further and complete a round trip circuit passing close by Kelly Knight Hut to take us back to our cars. Chris suggests we also include a side trip to the high point "Iron Peg". We get to this spot for lunch and are entertained with views of the Ruahines across to Hawkes Bay and a commentary by Derrick and Chris and Warren on possible tramping trips in the area.



After a *long lunch* we head off across the tussock country, down into the leatherwood and further down, into the bush towards the Pourangaki River. Initially the track is steep over grown and a struggle. Thankfully at the start of the leatherwood area track clearing has taken place, the route is smooth and almost like a "garden path" in places. The walking did tend to go on and on though. Chris provides a good diversion with his interesting conversation covering the full range of topics from religion to politics. Following along the edge of the river and out into the farm land is brilliant. Glimpses of the sun's rays through the bush and pristine river below. It is getting on a bit by now and the time is after 5pm when we get out of the bush. We finish with another hours walk across farmland to reach the cars and complete our round trip. Much later than we all thought ... It has been a slog, over 9 hours since we left the cars – a bit more than a medium grade! We finish off with a meal at the Ohingaiti Pub. Steak, fish and chips are well received!

We were Warren Wheeler, John Feeney, Richard Lockett, Ian Harding, Derrick and Chris Saunders.

Tutuwai Hut

May 5-6, 2007

Report and photos by Lance Gray

Watching Warren's frustrated face as he tried to talk with someone who did not want to talk was fascinating. The young man was communicating but definitely not talking. As soon as we arrived at Tutuwai Hut we knew we had upset this young man's expectations for this Saturday night. He immediately set about avoiding any contact with the five of us but certainly communicated his displeasure. He had gear but it was definitely fit only for a hut. Warren did a search for a gun and had me believing he was also playing with a knife. The way he put all of his rubbish in the fire box suggested he was not at all aware of hut etiquette which also requires you to talk even if you only talk briefly to visitors about key information such as what psychiatric facility you had just emerged from.

Thankfully, three other trampers arrived to our strained scene and they certainly talked to us. A great contrast was provided by the fact that the father had brought his son who happened to have an intellectual handicap. The son and father were great company compared to our non-talkative companion who only appeared to have a giant chip on his shoulder. Speculation, as you may well guess, was all we were left with and given our restless creative energies we gladly indulged. This guy really got under Warren's skin; the fact that Warren's bladder had him up all night meant he also found our friend at 3am in the morning on the porch. Warren being Warren was always trying to get this guy to talk but no way was that going to happen. Poor Warren even resorted to taunts every time he left to go outside only for him to return 30 seconds later!

Me, being the social animal that I am, decided that if I was going to carry the tent fly then I was going to sleep under it. I must have had premonitions of what lay before us because I had a great night down on the Tutuwai River flats listening to the river and not having to worry about meeting a certain figure on the porch! Our walk in over Mt Reeves from the



June 2007

Woodside road-end was a shock to my non-tramping legs. We had a brief chat to a party of twelve South Wairarapa Tramping Club members on a day-trip. Terry introduced us to the editor for the FMC Bulletin: John Rhodes who roared up the hill behind us and then mentioned the fact he was booked in for knee surgery. Not so flash going downhill apparently.

The Sunday plod out was notable for the inspection of the Cone Hut dunny for which Warren 'reluctantly' posed and the crossing of the Waiohine River (crotch level) back to Terry's truck. We were fortunate enough to meet the local farmer who gave us permission and direction as to where to cross. The weather for the weekend was stunning for which Anja took much credit. She calls it leadership; I call it luck!



We were Anja Scholz (leader), Warren Wheeler, Murray Gifford and Lance Gray.

Trip Report to Diggers Hut

Anzac Day 2007

Report and photos by Pauline Knuckey

We had a leisurely start to the day, meeting at 9am at the cenotaph in the Square (playing spot the trumper among those who were there to attend the 9:30 service). We hopped into Keith's impressively sized vehicle and headed off for the Pohangina, stopping near the Waterford to pick up Richard who had come over from Feilding.

We began the amble/slog, depending on your fitness, up the hilly farmland shortly after 10, marvelling at the clear view of Ruapehu's snowy slopes. We paused at the bush line for a breather and a quick snack. We were kept highly entertained as we meandered through the bush by Warren's narratives (both the factual and the fictional kind) of our native flora. The downward trek to the river was steep enough to bring on more than one "not looking forward to coming back up here" comment. We crossed the river to get to the hut, where we had lunch and took a few photos. Warren got full marks for trip leader by boiling us a billy of tea (tea leaves not tea

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bags), over a real fire, accompanied with Anzac biscuits. The chill breeze up the river ensured we couldn't linger too long, so we started on the return trek, to the accompaniment of cell phone checking, by Keith, which lead to a discussion on who the biggest technophobe was – I won't say, you'll have to guess. Keith reported he had to get some Panadol on the way home – oh where would we be without cellphones?



Once out of the bush and heading down the farmland again, we left Keith and Rob behind as they began mushroom gathering. They eventually turned up, about 10 minutes behind us, coming over a different hilltop as they had taken a wrong turn. Back at the vehicle we had a quick change into semi-tidy gear as we stopped off at the Waterford for an Anzac beer on the way home. A great day out – thanks Warren for organising it.

We were Warren Wheeler, Anne Cameron, Pauline Knuckey, Richard Lockett, Rob Briggs, Keith Carter

Leadership evening

3 May 2007

Report by Anja Scholz

This club meeting was an opportunity for Terry, John and me to share a few of the things we had learnt at the FMC Leadership course last year, to talk about the club information on trip leading, and to address other issues concerning trip leading that might be brought up by the participants.

The evening was well supported, and apart from the convenors the following 12 club members took part: Fiona Donald, Anne and Martin Lawrence, Penny Abercrombie, Chris Saunders, Duncan Hedderley, Neil Campbell, Craig Allerby, Murray Gifford, Trevor King, Barbara Cowan, and Tim Kannegieter.

We started with a few recollections of trips where things had gone wrong – or not quite according to plan – on club trips and personal trips. This gave us a basis for looking at things that a trip leader might have to consider when taking a trip – while our concern was mainly with making club trips safe and

enjoyable, these apply of course to all trips. It included areas like weather “problems”, gear and fitness concerns, navigation, groups splitting up, motivation, and others.

Leading on from that, the participants split up into small groups which looked at leader tasks and responsibilities before a trip, on the onset (e.g. Countdown carpark), during the trip, afterwards at the road end, and when back home. Much talked about points were how to assess a person's fitness and gear for a trip, leaving trip details with a responsible person or overdue trip contact and how to proceed in case of overdue trips, how to approach refusing to take someone on a trip (because of insufficient gear or other safety concerns), first aid and first aid kit requirements, how to assert authority if mutiny threatens etc. It was clear that while information is available (Guide for Trip Leader forms, pink slips) it was worthwhile talking about these points and clarifying several issues regarding those them.

With the evening progressing, talking about leadership styles was more of a small lecture than group work – four leadership styles were introduced: autocratic, democratic, consensus and laissez faire, and situations presented / discussed where each style was a good alternative. It was stressed that the composition of the group (experienced or less experienced trampers), easy or difficult terrain, weather/outdoor conditions, safety issues, might require different leadership approaches.

We had planned to do a couple of scenarios of trip problems, but did not get around to it because of the time. All participants agreed that it would be a good to hold another evening for this and possible further reminiscences about leadership and leading trips.

Convenors were Terry Crippen, Anjya Scholz and John Feeney.

Manawatu Gorge Trail by night.

Saturday 12 May 2007.

Report and photos by Tony Gates

Anja summoned up eight of us in all to look at the Manawatu Gorge trail at night. We took with us torches, candles (inside empty plastic coke bottles), warm clothes, and a few interesting and completely unusual items for tramping. We hardly needed the warm clothing- that is, till about 9.00 pm, when a chilly breeze sprung up. Before that, it was a balmy night under a beautiful sky in a very dark forest. We strolled steadily up the gully, and onto the much upgraded trail. Not many mud puddles there now, as DoC staff have been trimming off a few rough edges and laying metal. About an hour and a half saw us at the second lookout, with its sizeable new wooden structure and hand rail.

We paused for presentations of, shall we say, “unusual”

items for tramping that each of us had carried along. Someone had a slide rule (to calculate measurements of your trip), someone else red hot chilli sauce (to warm you up on a cold night), and some other pretty odd items were produced. Terry won the award for the most unusual, a frilly glittery head band (to reflect torch light and let you see the trail ahead better at night). On the return (back the same way) we marvelled at all our torch and candle lights shining through the trees.

We were Terry Crippen, Anjya Scholz, Tony Gates, Warren Wheeler, Fiona Donald, Murray Gifford, Craig Allerby and, Chris Tuffley.



Nite time trampers, with candle.

News from the past

Huts for trampers

The Youth Hostel Association of New Zealand, YHA, was originally run by trampers for trampers, who paid a “shilling a night and a shilling a meal.” In its first year, membership stood at 265. The first seven hostels were all on Banks Peninsula, the movement was confined to the South Island for the first few years of its life but grew to 60 hostels nationwide by the 1930s with membership rising to 24,000. Using packing crates and 44gallon drums, hostellers knocked up the hut at Port Levy, Banks Peninsula in 1947 for a total cost of 7 pounds (*Article from the Listener May 5 2007, p. 8*).

Tramping tastes

If you have some favourite tramping recipes you are prepared to share, please send (handwritten or photocopied is fine) to Anne at dahlia44@xtra.co.nz or to 44 Dahlia St, Palmerston North.

Here are two much sought-after recipes from Terry Crippen

Terry's Tararua Biscuits

By popular demand, here it is (all quantities approximate):

570 grams rolled oats

(I use about half and half of fine oats and coarse oats to give them a better texture rather than all fine or all coarse.)

340 grams flour

230 grams sugar

230 grams butter

½ heaped teaspoon of salt

1 to 2 heaped Tablespoon of Golden Syrup or similar.

Melt butter and rub into rolled oats, flour, sugar and salt. Add warmed Golden Syrup and mix. Add enough water to make softish dough. Roll out until about 6mm thick. Cut into rounds using an upside down glass. Bake in a oven (180 to 200 degree C) 30 to 40 mins or until lightly brown and firmish.

This will make about 45 biscuits. Double up the quantities since you will find yourself testing them day by day before your trip(s) starts. They are excellent to take on extended or even shorter trips, as they are very robust and keep well. Eat them on their own or with butter, jam, honey as spreads. Three or four biscuits are a good quantity for lunch (together with salami, cheese).

PS. Don't overcook them since they will become too hard on cooling and you may end up with a sprained jaw.

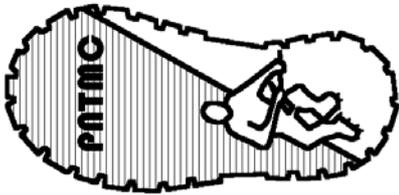
PPS. While they are know as Tararua Biscuits down this way, in some clubs further north (ie AUTC which I belonged to when at university) they were know as *Ivans*, named after Ivan Pickens (I assume) who presumably dreamed up/introduced the recipe to AUTC bods back in the 1940s.

Govans

A simple meal, also of AUTC fame (named after Govan Wilson I think, who presumably dreamed up/introduced the recipe to that club). Initially developed as a breakfast to cope with flatting but also excellent as a breakfast or dinner on extended trips.

1. Take rice, chopped bacon or salami, and dehydrated peas.
2. Add water and salt; boil till cooked.
3. Serve and add grated cheese, tuna or whatever.
4. Eat and enjoy!

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Palmerston North
Tramping and
Mountaineering Club
Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217,
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PNTMC Newsletter June 2007

What's Inside:

- Forthcoming trips and other club events
- A reminder about gear to take on trips
- Details of our Snowcraft Instruction Programme
- Obituary for Heather Margaret Crabb
- Reports on recent trips
- Tramping tastes

Hit the snow with us!
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PNTMC Committee 2007

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